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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Levergood et al.

Appl. No.: 09/005,479

Conf. No.: 2543

Filed: January 12, 1998

Title: INTERNET SERVER ACCESS CONTROL AND MONITORING SYSTEMS

Art Unit: 2155

Examiner: Patrice L. Winder

Docket No.: 113948-023

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Commissioner for Patents

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**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF 37 CFR 1.192(c)**

Sir:

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Communication mailed on June 17, 2003.

As discussed in the telephone conference of July 2, 2003, Applicants resubmit the claims on appeal in the above identified application. The resubmitted claims are identical to the claims originally submitted with Appellants appeal brief, and accurately present the claims as they stand on appeal. The only change that has been made is that the parenthetical status information of various claims (i.e. amended, twice amended, etc.) has been removed.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY

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Dated: July 8, 2003

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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)**

Docket No.
113948-023

In Re Application Of: **Levergood et al.**

Serial No.
09/005,479

Filing Date
01/12/1998

Examiner
Patrice L. Winder

Group Art Unit
2155

Title: **INTERNET SERVER ACCESS CONTROL AND MONITORING SYSTEMS**

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

Response to Notice of Non-Compliance with the Requirements of 37 CFR 1.192(c) (1 Page); Appendix - Resubmitted Claims (16 Pages) (3 Original Copies); and Return Receipt Postcard.

in the above identified application.

- No additional fee is required.
- A check in the amount of _____ is attached.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **02-1818** as described below.
 - Charge the amount of _____
 - Credit any overpayment.
 - Charge any additional fee required.

Signature

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Dated: **July 8, 2003**

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on July 8, 2003, with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Robert J. Buccieri

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CC:

APPENDIX

CLAIMS

3. A method of processing service requests from a client to a server system through a network, said method comprising the steps of forwarding a service request from the client to the server system, wherein communications between the client and server system are according to hypertext transfer protocol;

returning a session identifier from the server system to the client, the client storing the session identifier for use in subsequent distinct requests to the server system; and

appending the stored session identifier to each of the subsequent distinct requests from the client to the server system.

5. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the session identifier includes a user identifier.

6. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the session identifier includes an expiration time for the session.

7. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the server system records information from the session identifier in a transaction log in the server system.

8. A method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the server system tracks the access history of sequences of service requests within a session of requests.

9. A method as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the server system tracks the access history to determine service requests leading to a purchase made within the session of requests.

10. A method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the server system counts requests to particular services exclusive of repeated requests from a common client.
11. A method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the server system maintains a data base relating customer information to access patterns.
12. A method as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the information includes customer demographics.
13. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the server system assigns the session identifier to an initial service request to the server system.
14. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the server system subjects the client to an authorization routine prior to issuing the session identifier and the session identifier is protected from forgery.
15. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the server system comprises plural servers including an authentication server which provides session identifiers for service requests to multiple servers.
16. A method as claimed in Claim 15 wherein:
a client directs a service request to a first server which is to provide the requested service;

the first server checks the service request for a session identifier and only services a service request having a valid session identifier, and where the service request has no valid identifier:

the first server returns a response to the client, the response redirecting the service request from the client to the authentication server;

the authentication server subjects the client to an authorization routine and issues the session identifier to be appended to the service request to the first server;

the client forwards the service request appended with the session identifier to the first server; and

the first server recognizes the session identifier and services the service request to the client; and

the client appends the session identifier to subsequent service requests to the server system and is serviced without further authorization.

17. A method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the session identifier includes a user identifier.

18. A method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the session identifier includes an expiration time for the session.

19. A method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the session identifier provides access to a protected domain to which the session has access authorization.

20. A method as claimed in Claim 19 wherein the session identifier is modified for access to a different protected domain.

21. A method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the session identifier provides a key identifier for key management.

22. A method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the server system records information from the session identifier in a transaction log in the server system.

23. The method of Claim 3 wherein the access rights of the client are fully contained within the session identifier.

24. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein a service request is for a document and the session identifier includes a user identification, further comprising:

returning the requested document wherein the document is customized for a particular user based on the user identification of the session identifier.

25. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein a service request is for a document which has been purchased by a user, the session identifier comprises an authorization identifier, and further comprising:

returning the requested document if the authorization identifier indicates that the user is authorized to access the document.

26. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein a service request is for a document wherein the session identifier comprises a user identifier, and further comprising:

returning the requested document to the client; and

charging the user identified in the identifier for access to the document.

31. The method of Claim 3, wherein at least one service request comprises a request for a document which has been purchased by a user, and wherein the session identifier comprises an authorization identifier, the method further comprising:

returning the requested document if the authorization identifier indicates that the user is authorized to access the document.

32. A method as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the authorization identifier is encoded within a session identifier which is appended to the request.

33. The method of Claim 3, wherein at least one service request comprises a request for a document, wherein the session identifier is designated by the server system, said method further comprising the steps of:

returning the requested document to the client; and

charging the user identified in the session identifier for access to the document.

34. A method as claimed in Claim 33, wherein a user identifier is encoded within a session identifier which is appended to the request.

35. An information system on a network, comprising:

means for receiving service requests from a client and for determining whether a service request includes a session identifier, wherein communications to and from the client are according to hypertext transfer protocol;

means for providing the session identifier in response to an initial service request from the client in a session of requests;

means for storing, at the client, the session identifier for use in each communication to the server system;

means for appending the stored session identifier to each of subsequent communications from the client to the server system; and

means for servicing the subsequent service requests.

36. The information system of Claim 35 wherein access rights of the client are fully contained within the session identifier.

37. An information system as claimed in Claim 35 wherein the means for providing the session identifier is in a server system which services the requests.

38. An information system as claimed in Claim 35 further comprising an authorization routine for authorizing the client prior to issuing the session identifier and means for protecting the session identifier from forgery.

39. An information server system as claimed in Claim 35 further comprising a transaction log for recording information from the session identifier.
40. An information system as claimed in Claim 35 further comprising means for tracking access history of sequences of service requests within the session of requests.
41. An information system as claimed in Claim 35 further comprising means for counting requests to particular services exclusive of repeated requests from a common client.
42. An information system as claimed in Claim 35 further comprising a data base relating customer information to access patterns.
43. An information system as claimed in Claim 42 wherein the information includes customer demographics.
49. The method of Claim 3 wherein the session identifier is cryptographically generated.
50. The method of Claim 3 further comprising:
returning a response to the client, the response redirecting an initial service request to an authentication server, the authentication server providing the session identifier.
51. The method of Claim 3, wherein the session identifier is appended to at least one path name in a document returned by the server system.

52. The method of Claim 51, wherein the at least one path name is in a link in the returned document.
53. The method of Claim 52 wherein the link is an absolute link.
54. The method of Claim 52 wherein the link comprises a uniform resource locator.
55. The method of Claim 51 wherein the step of appending the session identifier comprises filtering the requested document.
56. The method of Claim 51 wherein the session identifier is cryptographically generated.
57. The method of Claim 51 wherein the session identifier is directed to an accessible domain.
58. The method of Claim 51 wherein the session identifier comprises an expiration time.
59. The method of Claim 51 wherein the session identifier comprises a date.
60. The method of Claim 51 wherein the session identifier comprises a key identifier.
61. The method of Claim 51 wherein the session identifier comprises an address of the client.

62. The method of Claim 51 wherein the session identifier comprises a digital signature.
63. The method of Claim 31 wherein the authorization identifier is provided by authentication server.
67. The method of Claim 3, wherein the session identifier is designated by the server system, further comprising the steps of:
 - validating, at the server system, the appended session identifier; and
 - returning a controlled document if the appended session identifier is valid.
68. The method of Claim 67 wherein the session identifier is cryptographically generated.
69. The method of Claim 67 wherein the session identifier is directed to an accessible domain.
70. The method of Claim 67 wherein the session identifier comprises an expiration time.
71. The method of Claim 67 wherein the session identifier comprises a date.
72. The method of Claim 67 wherein the session identifier comprises a key identifier.
73. The method of Claim 67 wherein the session identifier comprises an address of the client.

74. The method of Claim 67 wherein the session identifier comprises an unforgeable digital signature.

75. The method of Claim 67 wherein the session identifier facilitates authenticated accesses across multiple content servers.

76. The method of Claim 67 wherein the document is customized for a particular user based on a user identification of the session identifier.

77. The method of Claim 67, wherein the session identifier is appended to at least one path name in a document returned by the server system.

78. The method of Claim 77 wherein the step of appending the session identifier comprises filtering the requested document.

79. A method of processing service requests from a client to a server system through a network, said method comprising the steps of:

forwarding a service request from the client to the server system, wherein communications between the client and server system are according to hypertext transfer protocol;

returning a session identifier from the server system to the client, the client storing the session identifier for use in subsequent communications; and

at the client, appending as part of a path name in a uniform resource locator the stored session identifier to each subsequent service request from the client to the server system within a session of requests.

80. The method of Claim 79 wherein the session identifier is cryptographically generated.

81. The method of Claim 79 further comprising:

returning a response to the client, the response containing a locator for an authentication server, the response redirecting the first service request to the authentication server, the authentication server providing the session identifier.

82. The method of Claim 79, wherein the session identifier is appended to at least one path name in a document returned by the server system.

83. The method of Claim 82, wherein the at least one path name is in a link in the returned document.

84. The method of Claim 83 wherein the link is an absolute link.

85. The method of Claim 83 wherein the link comprises a uniform resource locator.

86. The method of Claim 82 wherein the step of appending the session identifier comprises filtering the requested document.

87. The method of Claim 82 wherein the session identifier is cryptographically generated.
88. The method of Claim 82 wherein the session identifier is directed to an accessible domain.
89. The method of Claim 82 wherein the session identifier comprises an expiration time.
90. The method of Claim 82 wherein the session identifier comprises a date.
91. The method of Claim 82 wherein the session identifier comprises a key identifier.
92. The method of Claim 82 wherein the session identifier comprises an address of the client.
93. The method of Claim 82 wherein the session identifier comprises an unforgeable digital signature.
96. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:
servicing a request; and
automatically charging a user identified by the session identifier for the service provided.

97. The method of Claim 3, wherein at least one service request comprises a purchase request, the purchase request including an associated user identifier, the method further comprising:

accessing, upon receipt of the purchase request at the server system, user information associated with the user identifier sufficient to charge to an account associated with the user, the purchase price of the product identified by the purchase request;

charging the user for the product identified by the purchase request according to the user information; and

fulfilling the purchase request based on the user information.

98. The method of Claim 97, wherein the client includes the user identifier in a session identifier appended to the purchase request.

100. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

under control of a client system, displaying information identifying a product; and

in response to a user selection of a hyperlink associated with a product desired to be purchased, sending a request to purchase the item along with an identifier of a purchaser of the item to a server system; and

under control of the server system, upon receiving the request, retrieving additional information previously stored for the purchaser identified by the identifier in the received request;

charging the user the purchase price of the product; and

fulfilling the request for the product.

101. The method of Claim 3, wherein the session identifier is appended by the client.
102. The method of Claim 101, wherein the session identifier is cryptographically generated.
103. The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
 - identifying the user from the authorization identifier; and
 - automatically charging the identified user for the document.
104. The method of Claim 31, wherein the document is returned electronically.
105. The method of Claim 31, wherein a physical copy of the document is sent.
106. The method of Claim 31, wherein the authorization identifier is appended to uniform resource locator.
108. The method of Claim 3, wherein a service request comprises a request to purchase a product.
109. The method of Claim 108, wherein the product is transmitted over the network.
110. The method of Claim 109, wherein the product is a newspaper/newsletter article.

111. The method of Claim 108, wherein the product is a durable product.

112. A method of processing, in a server system, service requests from a client to the server system through a network, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the client, a service request to which a session identifier stored at the client has been appended by the client, wherein communications between the client and server system are according to hypertext transfer protocol;

validating the session identifier appended to the service request; and servicing the service request if the appended session identifier is valid.

113. The method of Claim 112, further comprising, in the server system:

receiving an initial service request from the client;

creating, responsive to the initial service request, the session identifier; and

returning the session identifier to the client for storage by the client for use in subsequent distinct requests to the server system.

114. A method of processing, in a server system, uniform resource locator (URL) calls from a client to the server system through a network, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the client, a URL call to which a session identifier stored at the client has been appended by the client;

validating the session identifier appended to the URL; and servicing the URL call if the appended session identifier is valid.

115. The method of Claim 114, further comprising, in the server system:
receiving an initial URL call from the client;
creating, responsive to the initial URL call, the session identifier; and
returning the session identifier to the client for storage by the client for use in each URL
call to the server system.